



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

P

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---------------------------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/760,995 | 01/16/2001 | Janet Arlie Barnett | RD-28,534-5 | 6042 |
| 41838 | 7590 | 03/24/2006 | EXAMINER | |
| GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY (PCPI) | | | COLBERT, ELLA | |
| C/O FLETCHER YODER | | | | |
| P. O. BOX 692289 | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| HOUSTON, TX 77269-2289 | | | | 3624 |

DATE MAILED: 03/24/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 09/760,995 | BARNETT ET AL. | |

Examiner
Ella Colbert

Art Unit
3624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 December 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 7-26 and 50-61 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 7-26 and 50-61 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____. |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 7-26 and 50-61 are pending. Claims 7, 17, 24, and 50 have been amended in this communication filed 12/27/05 entered as Response After Non-Final Rejection.
2. The 35 USC 101 Rejection has been overcome by Applicants' amendments to the claims and is hereby withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
4. Claim 7 recites the limitation "granting administrative privileges" in line 6 on page 2 of the claims. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Suggestion: "delegating the granted administrative privileges ...".

Claims 7-10, 13, 17-21, 23- 26, and 50-59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. It is unclear from the Specification and drawings what is meant by "arbitrary group of users".

Claim Objections

5. Claim 17 is objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 17, line 8 recites "administrator the administrative domain". This line would be better recited "administrator for the administrative domain". Appropriate correction is required.

Specification

Art Unit: 3624

6. The Specification is objected to because The Specification is in a font that is difficult to read and some of the text is missing. Applicants' are respectfully requested to submit a new Specification, without any new matter, that has font which can easily be read. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Abstract

7. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because The font of the Abstract is difficult to read and some of the text is missing. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

8. (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

9. Claims 7-9, 17-19, 25, 26, 50, 55-57 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by (US 6,366,913) Fitler, Jr. et al, hereafter Fitler, Jr.

Claim 7. Fitler, Jr. teaches, A computer implemented method for managing user information associated with a user community, comprising: specifying the user community into at least one arbitrary group of users (col. 2, line 59-col. 3, line 20); forming an administrative domain from the at least one arbitrary group of users (col. 3, lines 21-44), and granting administrative privileges for managing the administrative domain (col. 6, lines 43-47 and col. 8, lines 1-37).

Claim 8. Fitler, Jr. teaches, The method according to claim 7. wherein the specifying of the user community into the at least one arbitrary group of users

Art Unit: 3624

comprises using attribute values associated with each of the users in the user community as criteria for forming the at least one arbitrary group of users (col. 3, lines 34-63).

Claim 9. Filter, Jr. teaches, The method according to claim 7. wherein the specifying of the user community into the at least one arbitrary group of users comprises using combinations of possible attribute values associated with each of the users in the user community as criteria for forming the at least one arbitrary group of users (col. 4, line 12 –col. 5, line 51).

Claim 17. This independent claim is rejected for the similar rationale as given above for claim 1.

Claim 18. this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale as given above for claim 8.

Claim 19. this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale as given above for claim 9.

Claim 50. This independent claim is rejected for the similar rationale as given above for claims 7 and 17.

Claim 55. this independent claim is rejected for the similar rationale as given above for claims 7, 17, and 50.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

10. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

- (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

Art Unit: 3624

invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

11. Claims 10 –16, 20-24, 54, and 58-61 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over (US 6,366,913) Fitler, Jr., hereafter Fitler in view of (US 6,539,379) Vora et al, hereafter Vora.

Claim 10. Fitler, Jr. failed to teach, The method according to claim 7, wherein the specifying of the user community into the at least one arbitrary group of users comprises constructing query rule to define users within the at least one arbitrary group of users. Vora teaches, wherein the specifying of the user community into the at least one arbitrary group of users comprises constructing query rule to define users within the at least one arbitrary group of users (col. 15, lines 21-60). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the specifying of the user community into the at least one arbitrary group of users comprises constructing query rule to define users within the at least one arbitrary group of users and to modify in Fitler because such a modification would allow Fitler to have the access control determined by the rules in the form of queries.

Claim 11. Fitler, Jr. failed to teach, The method according to claim 10. wherein the user data that satisfies the query rule dynamically becomes a managed user within the administrative domain. Vora teaches, wherein the user data that satisfies the query rule dynamically becomes a managed user within the administrative domain (col. 22, lines 24-39). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have wherein the user data that satisfies the query rule dynamically becomes a managed user within the administrative domain and to modify in

Fitler, Jr. because such a modification would allow Fitler, Jr. to have access determined by rules in the form of queries.

Claim 12. Fitler, Jr. teaches, the method according to claim 1, further comprising forming an administrative sub-domain from the administrative domain (col. 5, lines 11-67 -sub-domain is the second and third layer of the hierarchical structure).

Claim 13. Fitler, Jr. teaches, The method according to claim 12, wherein the forming of the administrative sub-domain further comprises specifying at least one arbitrary group of users (col. 5, lines 44-67).

Claim 14. Fitler, Jr. teaches, The method according to claim 12, further comprising granting administrative privileges for managing the administrative sub-domain (col. 6, lines 34-53).

Claim 15. Fitler, Jr. teaches, The method according to claim 14, further comprising delegating the granted administrative privileges for the administrative sub-domain (col. 6, line 55-col. 7, line 15).

Claim 16. Fitler, Jr. teaches, The method according to claim 7, further comprising delegating the granted administrative privileges for the administrative domain (col. 8, lines 1-37).

Claim 20. this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale as given above for claim 10.

Claim 21. this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale as given above for claim 11.

Claim 22. Filtler, Jr. teaches, the method of claim 17, further comprising delegating the granted administrative privileges to additional administrators for the administrative domain (col. 9, lines 26-67).

Claim 23. Fitler, Jr. teaches, The method according to claim 17, further comprising managing information associated with the administrative domain according to the delegated administrative privileges, wherein the managing of the information comprises dynamically determining in real-time whether the information is a member in the at least one arbitrary group of users (col. 9, lines 5-15).

Claim 24. Fitler, Jr. teaches, A method for providing delegated administration of a user community with a client system comprising: specifying the user community into at least one arbitrary group of users (col. 2, line 59-col. 3, line 20); following an administrative domain from the at least one arbitrary group of users (col. 3, lines 21-44); granting administrative privileges to an administrator for the administrative domain (col. 6, lines 43-47 and col. 8, lines 1-37).

This claim is rejected for the similar rationale as given above for claims 12 and 15.

Claim 25. this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale as given above for claims 8 and 18.

Claim 26. this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale as given above for claims 9 and 19.

Claim 51. This dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale as given above for claims 8, 18, and 25.

Claim 52. this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale as given above for claims 9, 19, and 26.

Claim 53. This dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale as given above for claims 10 and 20.

Claim 54. this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale as given above for claims 11 and 21.

Claim 56. this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale as given above for claims 8, 18, and 25.

Claim 57. this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale as given above for claims 9, 19, and 26.

Claim 58. this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale as given above for claims 10 and 20.

Claim 59. this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale as given above for claims 11, 21 and 54.

Claim 60. this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale as given above for claim 23.

Claim 61. this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale as given above for claim 16.

Conclusion

12. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Miller et al (US 5,649,194) disclosed a directory service.

Corn et al (US 6,356,892) disclosed directory access and querying.

Inquiries

13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ella Colbert whose telephone number is 571-272-6741. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday-Thursday, 6:30AM-4:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vincent Millin can be reached on 571-272-6747. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



E. Colbert
Primary Examiner
March 13, 2006